(c) what are the details of the contracts with foreign buyers finalised by this agency, the quantities released by Government for this purpose and the quantities actually shipped by this agency till date since 1989 monthwise and year-wise;

(d) whether there have been any discrepancies in these three items, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have conducted any audit in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Indian Sugar and General Industries Export Import Corporation Limited (ISGIEIC), an apex body representing all sugar mills in the country, has been entrusted with the responsibility of exporting sugar under provisions of the Sugar-Export Promotion Act, 1958.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of fine varieties of rice

1411. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Rice Export Promotion Council to increase the export of fine and semi-fine varieties of rice; and

(b) if so, whether this would affect the production of coarse rice which is distributed through the public distribution system and consumed by the largest number of people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The matter is under Government's consideration.

(b) It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodities in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected.

Export of certain commodities

1412. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the names of the commodities which have been exported more in volume during the first half year of 1993 in comparison to the corresponding period of 1992 and the major exportable commodities that have shown declining trend during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): As per provisional estimates by DGCI&S, Calcutta the major commodities/groups which registered an increase in export in volume terms during January-April, 1993 (upto which such data is available) as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are Tea, Rice (Basmati), Tobacco, Spices, Shellac, Groundnut, Cashew including Cashewnut liquid, Guerous Meal, Castor Oil, Sesame and Niger Seeds, Oil Meals, Sugar and Molasses, Cotton raw including waste, Jute manufactures excluding floor covering, Marine Products, Iron ore, Mica, Iron and Steel, Non-Ferrous Metals, Coal, Organic/Inorganic Chemicals, Paints|Enamels|Varnishes, and Dyes|Intermediates|Coal Tar Chemicals. The Major Commodities|groups whose exports registered a decline in volume terms during the same period are Coffee, Rice other than Basmati, Floor Covering of Jute and Ferro Alloys.